

Message Text

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S E C R E T ANKARA 3308

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. BEFORE LEAVING FOR VIENNA, EAGLETON SAW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CYPRUS AND GREEK AFFAIRS GUVENDIREN AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DISCUSS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA. HE REFERRED TO FACT THAT HARTMAN HAD (DURING WEEKEND AT BILDERBERG CONFERENCE IN CESME) BRIEFED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL ON HIS TALKS WITH BITSIOS IN ATHENS. GUVENDIREN WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS APPROACHING DIALOGUE WITH GENUINE DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENTS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. EAGLETON REPLIED THAT THIS WAS OUR IMPRESSION BUT THAT GREEKS WERE SENSITIVE ABOUT A NUMBER OF ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, AND THAT PROBABLY THEY DO NOT WANT TOO MANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR A BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETING.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SOME PROBING, GUVENDIREN REVEALED, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT ELEKDAG HAD GONE TO GENEVA THIS PAST WEEK BUT HAD NOT FOUND STAVROPOULOS THERE. THIS NON-MEETING DID NOT GREATLY DISTURB TURKISH GOVERNMENT SINCE CAGLAYANGIL HAD KEPT OTHER LINES OPEN TO GREEK GOVERNMENT. BITSIOS HAS NOW PROPOSED THAT TZOUNIS MEET WITH TEZEL TO PREPARE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. GUVENDIREN THOUGHT GOT WOULD AGREE TO THIS AND THAT FOREIGN

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MINISTERS WOULD MEET IN ITALY IN EARLY MAY.

3. GUVENDIREN SAID TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD PUT DENKTASH
IN PROPER FRAME OF MIND FOR VIENNA TALKS ALONG LINES OF
DISCUSSION WITH HARTMAN. HE SAID DENKTASH WOULD
SUGGEST TO CLERIDES THAT A NUMBER OF SUBCOMMITTEES BE SET
UP TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL ISSUES. THIS WAS IN PART TO PREVENT
AN IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION AND POSSIBLE IMPASSE ON BASIC
PRINCIPLES.
MACOMBER

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